



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Dennis STAMIREs, Michael F. BRADY,
William JONES and Fathi KOOLI

Group Art Unit: 1754

Examiner: C. Nguyen

Application No.: Rule 53(d) Continuing Prosecution Docket No.: WPB 40864B
Appln. of U.S. Serial No. 09/246,691

Filed: February 9, 1999

For: PROCESS FOR PRODUCING ANIONIC CLAY USING TWO TYPES OF
ALUMINA COMPOUNDS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-3 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please replace claim 4, 5, 9, 12, 14 and 15 as follows:

4. (Amended) The process according to claim 23, wherein the aluminum source comprises aluminum trihydrate and thermally treated aluminum trihydrate.

5. (Three Times Amended) The process according to claim 23, wherein the magnesium source is at least one selected from the group consisting of MgO , $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2$ and MgCO_3 .

9. (Twice Amended) The process according to claim 23, wherein metals or non-metals are present during the reaction of the aluminum source and magnesium source.

RECEIVED
MAR 19 2002
TC 1700